NATIONAL LIBRARY of MEDICINE

NEWS

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A Quarter Century of Progress

Twenty-five years ago, on August 3, 1956, President Eisenhower signed Public Law 941, passed by the 84th Congress. The legislation provided for the transfer of the Armed Forces Medical Library to the U.S. Public Health Service, and renamed the resulting entity The National Library of Medicine.

"At long last," wrote the Library's director, Lt. Col. **Frank B. Rogers,** "the Library has a statutory base for its operations, and specific legislative approval of its aims, with the promise of adequate housing in the offing. Those of us here at the Library realize better than most, I think, how much passage of the National Library of Medicine Act was dependent upon, and enmeshed in, all the earlier strivings, and how great was the reservoir of good will toward the Library, built up over many decades, which could be drawn upon during the climactic efforts."

Among those whose "good will" (and hard work) resulted in the NLM Act were Doctors **Alan Gregg, Worth B. Daniels, Michael E. DeBakey, Saul Jarcho, Theodore Klumpp,** Col. **Joseph H. McNinch,** and of course Library Director Rogers. Senator **Lister Hill,** who with Senator **John F. Kennedy** cosponsored the bill, was of inestimable value in shepherding the legislation through both houses in Congress.

The past 25 years have seen many changes and great growth in the Library's services, the result of new mandates and new technology. Among the highlights:

1962 NLM moves from the Washington Mall to its new building in Bethesda, Maryland

1964 MEDLARS becomes operational

1965 Medical Library Assistance Act authorizes a grant program at NLM

1967 Toxicology Information Program begins

1967 National Medical Audiovisual Center, in Atlanta, Georgia, becomes part of the Library

1968 Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications established as NLM's research and development component

1971 MEDLINE service begins

1980 Lister Hill Center building dedicated

The bedrock on which this progress rests is the incomparable collection of biomedical literature assembled by Dr. **John Shaw Billings** (who directed the Library from 1865 to 1895) and nurtured and expanded by his successors. The foundation they laid, and the tradition of excellence and dedication they set, were indispensable to the growth of NLM programs in the last 25 years. Through the efforts of staff and supportive patrons, we will be extending their important work into the future.

[*Note: see history item on page 2.*]

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NEWS

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- Norma Paige, Clerk-typist, Bibliographic Services Division
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Bibliography of Medical Reviews

The Superintendent of Documents is now accepting orders for the cumulation of the *Bibliography of Medical Reviews, 1976-1980*, scheduled to appear in late September. The 1800-page, casebound volume contains a subject/author listing of citations to review articles appearing in *Index Medicus* and *Cumulated Index Medicus* since 1976. The price is $30 ($37.50 foreign): order number S/N 017-052-00223-6. (Send orders to: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.)

"Reviews" are defined by the Library as "articles which are well documented surveys of the recent biomedical literature." "Recent" is interpreted as covering basically the past ten years, although the presence of older material does not necessarily exclude the article from inclusion in the *Bibliography*.

This latest issue of the *Bibliography of Medical Reviews* is the third five-year cumulation to be published. The previous cumulation, covering 1971-1975, is still in print at the Government Printing Office; price: $20 ($25 foreign); order number S/N 017-052-00178-7.

NMAC Workshops Announced

The Library's National Medical Audiovisual Center has announced two workshops for health professionals to be held in the Center's facilities in Bethesda later this year.

The first, Developing and Evaluating Audiovisual Instructional Materials, will be held November 16-18. In this workshop, participants will work in teams to create audiovisual instructional units consisting of a storyboard and related materials. These units are peer reviewed, tried out, and evaluated for later production. Designing Simulation Activities in the Health Sciences, the second workshop, will be held December 7-9. In this workshop, participants will create instructional simulations (structured learning experiences which resemble real life events) for classroom use.

There is no registration fee for these workshops. Participants will be responsible for their own travel and lodging arrangements. For more information, including an application form, write:

National Library of Medicine
National Medical Audiovisual Center
ATTN: Educational Training and Consultation Branch
Lister Hill Center Building
Bethesda, Maryland 20209
(Telephone: 301 496-6280)

New Film Distributor

On July 30th Association Films Inc., the distributor for the NMAC 16mm Film Loan Program, was sold to Modern Talking Picture Service, Inc. Effective immediately all NMAC film loan requests should be directed to the new address below. There will be no disruption in service as a result of the change.
New Address: Modern Talking Picture Service, Inc., 5000 Park Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida 33709. (813) 541-6661

Comments from Readers Requested

RML Network Review

The Regional Medical Library Program, funded since 1967 under the Medical Library Assistance Act, was developed to improve access to information for health professionals. The program created a network of health-science libraries that has served to meet the information needs of these professionals. The network has been a dynamic venture in that resources have been shared among libraries at all levels, and manpower, funding, and technology have been efficiently applied to the development of services.

The network's mission, reaffirmed by the RML directors and the NLM in 1979, is to continue to operate and improve an interactive national system for providing information in support of health services delivery, education, and research. The program's goals in support of this mission are:

- To achieve greater resource sharing through document delivery, access to online databases, acquisitions and resource utilization, and backup reference services.
- To promote network participation and library development through consultation and training.
- To provide regional management, coordination, and leadership of the network.
- To publicize the network's services and activities.
- To provide for planning and evaluating the network.
- To encourage outreach and coordination with other regional and national library information networks.

After fifteen years of operation and many innovative programs, it is important that we reassess the goals of the network. This summer, NLM staff is examining the present network and its future direction. Working groups are reviewing the RML mission and goals statement, current programs such as document delivery, and the network's geographical configuration. This review and the resulting recommendations will be aimed at strengthening the network as a national program while endeavoring to contain costs.

NLM is interested in your comments on the RML program. Your written responses to the questions below would be especially helpful in this review.

- As a health-science librarian/user, which network programs are most important to your library? Why?
- As a health-science librarian/user, what services that the network does not now offer would benefit you? Why?

When sending your comments and suggestions be sure to indicate the type of library (hospital, academic, special, etc.) you work in or regularly use. Please send your comments by September 11 to:

Lois Ann Colaianni
Deputy Associate Director for
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National Library of Medicine
Bethesda, Maryland 20209

NLM History in Press

Although the NLM Act appeared to most observers a noncontroversial piece of legislation, there was one stumbling block whose negotiation required adroit maneuvering: Where should a new library building be located? Disagreement among the lawmakers threatened to scuttle the bill.

How this question was resolved, and a wealth of detailed information about the Library and the various people who have been associated with it for almost 150 years, are contained in a history of the National Library of Medicine to be published next year by the Government Printing Office. The author is **Wyndham Miles,** Ph.D., of the History of Medicine Division. A foreword was contributed by **William B. Bean,** M.D., Sir William Osler Professor of Medicine at the University of Iowa College of Medicine and a former Chairman of the NLM Board of Regents.

Ordering information for this history, now in press, will be carried in a future issue of the *NLM News.*

NLM Staff Member Attends Dedication Ceremony

Mrs. **Frances Humphrey Howard,** Special Assistant to the NLM Associate Director for Extramural Programs, recently completed a private trip to Norway to meet with two Norwegian scholars and to represent the Humphrey family at a ceremony honoring her late brother, former Vice President of the U.S., **Hubert H. Humphrey.**

In Oslo, Mrs. Howard met with Dr. **Olé K. Harlem**, chief editor of the *Journal of the Norwegian Medical Association* and a former NLM fellow. At the University of Bergen she consulted with Dr. **Oystein Wendelbo**, whose medical career has largely been dedicated to the study and advancement of medical library services with emphasis on medical information retrieval. Dr. Wendelbo was a guest worker at NLM in 1980.

In the courtyard of their family church, in the southern seaport city of Kristiansand, Mrs. Howard spoke at the unveiling of a stone monument erected to Senator Humphrey's memory.

On May 14 Mrs. Frances Humphrey Howard helped dedicate a memorial to her brother, former Vice President Hubert Humphrey, in Kristiansand, Norway, home of their grandparents. Also pictured (from left) are local artist Arne Gunnerud, Mrs. Howard's daughter Anne, and Johannes Seland, who, with Ambassador Søren Sommerfelt, was instrumental in having the memorial erected.

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